

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 INRE-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 /050 W

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O 071611Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3155

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 1334

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN (EUR) AND ASST SECY ENDERS (EB)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, HU

SUBJ: PANAM SERVICE TO BUDAPEST

REF: BUDAPEST 1262

1. ONLY TWO WEEKS REMAIN PRIOR TO SCHEDULED START OF PANAM SERVICE TO BUDAPEST. PANAM REPRESENTATIVES INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT IT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN SERVICE AS SCHEDULED. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, PANAM HAS YET TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF DOWNTOWN OFFICE SPACE, AIRPORT OPERATIONAL AND STORAGE FACILITIES, AND TELEX COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE SERVICE CAN BEGIN; AND IT IS NOW INCREASINGLY CLEAR TO THEM AND TO THIS EMBASSY THAT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS ON THESE ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS UNTIL AIR AGREEMENT FORMALLY AMENDED.

2. PANAM MANAGER LAMBRICHTS CONTACTED EMBASSY MAY 7 AT URGING OF NY OFFICE TO ASK IF 175 CLEARANCE RECEIVED AND REITERATED REQUEST FOR EMBASSY HELP SO PANAM CAN MEET MAY 22 TARGET DATE. LAMBRICHTS WHO HAD MET WITH CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTOR HUVOS EARLIER ON MAY 7 REPORTED THAT LATTER WAS ANNOYED BY FAILURE OF USG TO FORMALLY PROPOSE
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AMENDMENT TO AIR AGREEMENT.

3. TIME HAS JUST ABOUT RUN OUT. WHILE SOME MAY VIEW OPENING OF PANAM SERVICE TO BUDAPEST A SMALL AND UNIMPORTANT EVENT, WE BELIEVE IT A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS PRECISELY BECAUSE IT IS VISIBLE REPEAT VISIBLE TO THE HUNGARIAN PUBLIC AND TO AMERICANS AS WELL. ABOVE ALL, WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW GOH OFFICIALDOM OR THE LEADERSHIP TO GAIN THE IMPRESSION THAT U.S. IS ENGAGED IN FOOT-DRAGGING. IF PANAM IS TO HAVE FIGHTING CHANCE TO CUT THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE BRAMBLES AND BUREAUCRATIC UNDERBRUSH, EMBASSY SHOULD OFFICIALLY INFORM MFA BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS MAY 9.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SECURE CIRCULAR 175 CLEARANCE IN GOOD TIME, DEPT MAY WISH ADVISE PANAM NEW YORK OF ITS PROBLEM AND RECOMMEND POSTPONEMENT OF INITIATION OF SERVICE TO BUDAPEST. WHILE THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE COURSE WHICH THIS EMBASSY RECOMMENDS, A POSTPONEMENT IS FAR BETTER THAN A FIASCO.
MCAULIFFE

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Message Attributes

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